



TWEED SHIRE CRIME PREVENTION ACTION PLAN

PREPARED BY

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Disclaimer

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Tweed Shire Council currently works in partnership with the Gold Coast City Council in the implementation and monitoring of a Community Safety Action Plan aimed at addressing crime and safety issues in the border communities of Coolangatta and Tweed Heads. Although the original intent of this plan was to encompass a larger geographical area, a recent review of the plan resulted in the development of a range of crime prevention and community safety strategies aimed specifically at enhancing community safety in the Coolangatta-Tweed Heads cross-border area.

The Tweed Shire Council wishes to reduce crime and the fear of crime, and promote community safety within the whole of the Shire.

Council acknowledges that local crime prevention activities are most likely to succeed when they are part of a coordinated and collaborative approach to crime prevention within the community. To this end, Council has contracted Blaze Consulting (Aust) Pty Ltd to facilitate the development of the Tweed Shire Crime Prevention Action Plan in consultation with local communities throughout the Shire and in close collaboration with key stakeholders.

This plan is not intended to duplicate the Coolangatta-Tweed Community Safety Action Plan. It will complement the cross-border plan and extend the benefits of a collaborative approach to crime prevention to the rest of the Shire

1.2 Methodology

The methodology for the development of this plan was informed by the New South Wales Attorney General's Department – Guidelines for Developing a Crime Prevention Plan.

The following activities were undertaken:

1. Development of Community and Crime Profiles incorporating available quantitative data and qualitative information. A detailed list of data sources and publications can be found in the Reference section of this report.
2. Six public meetings and extensive individual and focus group consultations were conducted to gather qualitative information that may further inform the Crime and Community Safety Profiles, and identify and prioritise current and emerging crime and community safety issues.

The six public meetings were conducted within the following communities of interests:

- *Banora Point* comprising the communities of Tweed Heads, Tweed Heads West, Tweed Heads South, Banora Point, Bilambil Heights, Bilambil/Piggabeen and Terranora

- *Kingscliff* comprising the communities of Chinderah, Fingal, Kingscliff, Cudgen Village, Cabarita/Bogangar and Rural North Coast Balance
- *Murwillumbah* comprising the communities of Wardrop Valley, Murwillumbah, Condong, North Tumbulgum, Tumbulgum, Dulguigan and Carool
- *Pottsville* comprising the communities of Hastings Point, Pottsville and Burringbar area
- *Tyalgum* comprising the communities of Tyalgum, Rural North West Balance and Chillingham
- *Uki* comprising the communities of Uki, Stokers Siding and Dunbible

A map showing the communities of interest can be found at Attachment A.

A detailed list of individual and group stakeholders consulted can be found at Attachment B.

3. Facilitation of a strategic planning workshop with key community stakeholders from the Tweed Shire.

The list of workshop participants can be found at Attachment B.

4. Development of the Tweed Shire Crime Prevention Action Plan 2008 – 2011.

The plan will include:

- a Crime and Community Safety Profile of the Tweed Shire;
- identification of key priority issues based on the crime and community safety profile and community stakeholder consultations; and
- a strategic action plan to address each priority issue which will clearly detail Objectives, Strategy, Rationale, Key Performance Indicators or Outputs, Outcomes, Lead Agency, Partner Agencies, and Timeframes.

1.3 Limitations

During this project, the Tweed Shire experienced unforeseen and extreme weather conditions. As a result, one public meeting – at Uki – was rescheduled due to violent storms. Other consultations proceeded as planned. Although attendance at other public meetings was reasonable, inclement weather conditions may have precluded some people from attending. Other individual and focus group consultations were minimally impacted. Written and electronic submissions were also encouraged and some people did avail themselves of these alternative methods of providing input.

2. COMMUNITY PROFILE



The community profile highlights the key issues which have a significant relevance when addressing crime and community safety issues within the Tweed Shire. These are population and population growth rates, age characteristics, employment, occupation, income, family characteristics, housing, household composition and tourism.

2.1 Population and population growth rates

The residential population of the Tweed Shire at the time of the 2006 census was 79,322 persons.

Population growth

The Tweed Shire had an estimated annual growth rate of 2.9 per cent between 1991 and 2001. Between 2001 and 2006, the Shire's population has increased by more than 10 per cent. The population of coastal New South Wales is projected to increase at a faster rate than the rest of New South Wales.

Age structure

Of the total resident population, 14,612 persons (18.4 per cent) were aged under 15 years and 17,601 persons (22.2 per cent) were aged 65 years and over.

Age (Years)	No.	Percentage of total
0-4	4,226	5.3
5-14	10,388	13.1
15-24	8,499	10.7
25-54	28,548	36.0
55-64	10,059	12.7
65+	17,601	22.2
Total	79,322	

Recent studies have indicated that the North Coast of New South Wales will continue to experience significant change. The number of children aged 0 to 14 years is likely to decrease by approximately 9 per cent between 2001 and 2031 whereas the number of older people (65 years and over) is projected to more than double.

2.2 Housing

Household structure is rapidly changing in all parts of the Tweed Shire. Between 1996 and 2001 Couples with Children declined from 29.9 per cent to 27.9 percent of all households in the Shire. In 2006, this percentage declined further to make up only 24.8 of total households within the Shire. Lone Person households continued to increase from 22.9 per cent of all households in 1996, to 25.9 per cent in 2001, to 27.4 per cent in 2006.

Household/ Family Type	No.	Percentage of total
Couple with children	7,719	24.8
Couple without children	9,709	31.2
One parent families	3,859	12.4
Total families	21,533	
Lone person household	8,533	27.4
Total households	31,121	

Note: Individual numbers do not always equal the totals shown and percentages do not always add up to 100 per cent as this table only shows major categories of household/family type.

Housing stress is being experienced with the demand for rental accommodation exceeding supply, the cost of rental properties is continuing to rise, and vacancy rates for rental accommodation remain low.

2.3 Relative disadvantage

Income

In 2006, 19.6 per cent of people aged 15 years and over living in the Tweed Shire, almost one in every five people, received incomes of less than \$349 per week.

Weekly Individual Income	No.	Percentage of total
Negative-\$149	786	2.5
\$150-\$249	2,031	6.5
\$250-\$349	3,298	10.6
\$350-\$499	2,571	8.3
\$500-\$649	4,757	15.3
\$650-\$799	2,110	6.8
\$800-\$999	2,245	7.2
\$1,000+	10,029	32.2
Total	31,120	

Note: Individual numbers do not always equal the totals shown and percentages do not always add up to 100 per cent as this table only shows major categories of weekly individual income.

Employment

In 2006, 48.7 per cent of residents of the Tweed Shire were actively in the labour force. Of those, 7.1 per cent were unemployed. This is higher than the state average of 5.9 per cent for New South Wales. Anecdotal information also suggests that the unemployment rate among young people could be as high as 30 per cent.

Labour Force Status	No.	Percentage of total
Total employed	28,361	52.2
- Full time	16,448	
- Part time	10,802	
- Away from home	1,111	
Total unemployed	2,238	7.1
Total in Labour Force	31,497	48.7
Total	64,707	

Note: Individual numbers do not always equal the totals shown and percentages do not always add up to 100 per cent as this table only shows major categories of labour force status.

Of those in employment, 3,176 people (20.3 per cent) were employed in the construction industry, 1,743 people (11.2 per cent) in the retail trade, 1,484 people (9.5 per cent) in manufacturing and 1,267 people (8.1 per cent) in accommodation and food services.

2.4 Visitors

The Tweed Shire, as a whole, receives an estimated 440,000 domestic overnight visitors per annum, and approximately 750,000 day-trippers.

This represents a fairly conservative estimate, with Tweed Tourism suggesting that there has been a 72 per cent increase in visitor numbers over the past year with Twin Towns Services Club receiving 2.5 million visitors per annum. This trend is expected to continue with tourism facilities being enhanced throughout the Shire, principally along the Tweed Coast and at Tweed Heads. SALT Village located at Casuarina, for example, will be the largest single resort in New South Wales and the third largest in Australia.

The Tweed Economic Development Corporation estimated in 2002-03 that tourism injected approximately \$234 million into the Tweed economy (including both direct and flow-on effects). This represented approximately 18 per cent of the Gross Regional Product. The tourism industry is also estimated to support in excess of 2,000 local jobs mostly in accommodation, food services, retail, property and business services, and food manufacturing.

2.5 Homelessness

A 2001 study of homelessness in New South Wales found that the rate of homelessness in localities such as Tweed Heads was 60 per 10,000 persons.

The study also found that there were 6,880 residents of caravan parks in New South Wales. 40 per cent of caravan park residents were located in coastal New South Wales. 452 people were identified as homeless in Tweed Heads. This estimate would not include people 'sleeping rough' who may not have been able to be accessed during the study.

2.6 Summary of key issues

The Tweed Shire is characterised by:

- Continued positive population growth rates with an increase in residential population of more than 10 percent over the past five years.
- An increasingly ageing population with more than one fifth of the overall current population aged over 65 years.
- An increasingly higher percentage of households comprising Lone Persons or Couples without Children.
- An unemployment rate which is higher than the New South Wales average.
- A high percentage of low income earners with almost one in every five people aged over 15 years currently earning less than \$349 per week.
- Continued growth in visitor numbers, particularly along the Tweed Coast and in Tweed Heads.
- An uncertain but potentially significant number of homeless people who may become increasingly visible as a result of continuing development of the Shire's coastal areas and redevelopment occurring in the more densely populated areas of the Shire such as Tweed Heads.

The changing profile of the Shire, which is largely being driven by both residential and tourism development, coupled with significant indicators of disadvantage among some sectors of the community, can result in an increased risk of crime and crime related activity. Groups such as young people, the elderly, homeless and indigenous populations may experience a heightened degree of vulnerability within the changing social and economic context of the Shire. Development is not always accompanied by the appropriate level of social infrastructure required to support new and growing communities.

On the other hand, a period of growth and development can also provide opportunities to implement crime prevention strategies ahead of a potential escalation in crime. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design strategies can, for example, be implemented before and during development, and can significantly assist in mitigating some of the potential risks associated with crime. Similarly, complementary community-based crime prevention strategies can strengthen the resilience of local communities.

3. CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PROFILE

3.1 Crime statistics

Crime statistics for the Tweed Shire indicate relatively stable crime rates in almost all selected crime categories in the period from January 2002 to December 2006.

- Break and Enter (dwelling) decreased by an average of 8 per cent;
- Break and Enter (non-dwelling) decreased by an average of 4.2 per cent; and
- Stealing from motor vehicles decreased by an average of 7.5 per cent.

The only offence category that showed a consistent increase over the recording period was Malicious Damage which increased by an average of 7.3 per cent.

The Tweed/Byron Local Area Command of the New South Wales Police Force was able to provide a breakdown of selected crime statistics for the six communities of interest - Banora Point, Kingscliff, Murwillumbah, Pottsville, Tyalgum and Uki – which indicate similar trends across the selected offence categories.

The table below shows the number of recorded incidents for selected offence categories in each of the communities of interest.

The Banora Point and Kingscliff communities recorded the highest number of offences. This trend is consistent with the earlier suggestion that communities in which there is high growth and development can become more vulnerable to crime. The Banora Point community includes the high-volume tourist destination of Tweed Heads and growing residential suburbs of Banora Point, Bilambil and Bilambil Heights. The Kingscliff community includes the SALT Village development.

Recorded incidents of selected offences in the defined Communities of Interest within the Tweed Shire: 2006

2006	BANORA POINT	KINGSCLIFF	MURWILLUMBAH	POTTSVILLE	UKI	TYALGUM
Assault	400	120	97	26	11	6
Break and Enter	185	101	49	13	7	2
Drug Detection	118	25	33	4	25	3
Fraud	199	18	27	3	2	1
Major Motor vehicle crash	391	139	63	24	23	7
Malicious damage	288	83	89	24	6	4
Robbery	16	3	2	0	1	0
Stealing	465	130	85	28	6	5
Stolen vehicle	79	17	12	3	0	0

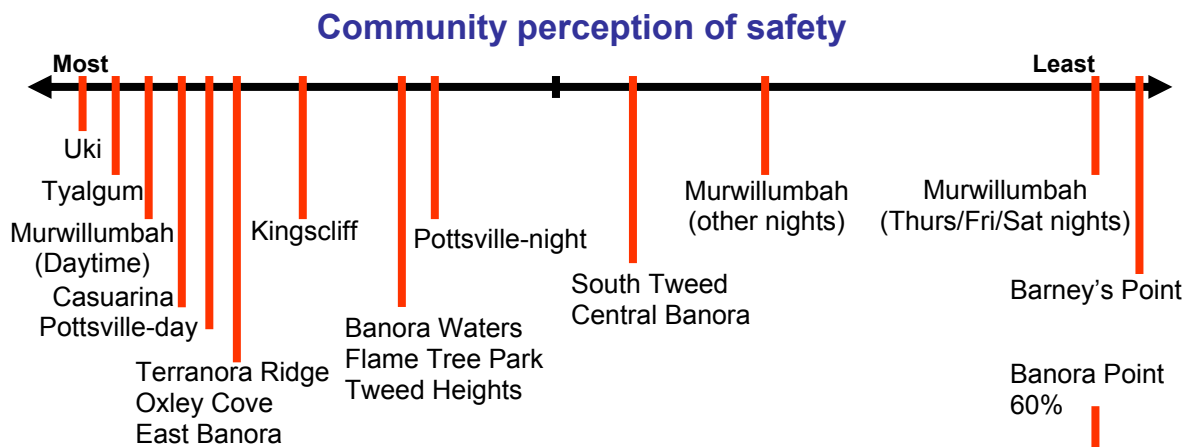
Source: These crime statistics were supplied by the Crime Prevention Unit, Tweed/Byron Local Area Command, New South Wales Police Force

3.2 Perceptions of safety

As there was no available data to indicate community perceptions of safety, at the beginning of each public meeting, participants were asked to indicate:

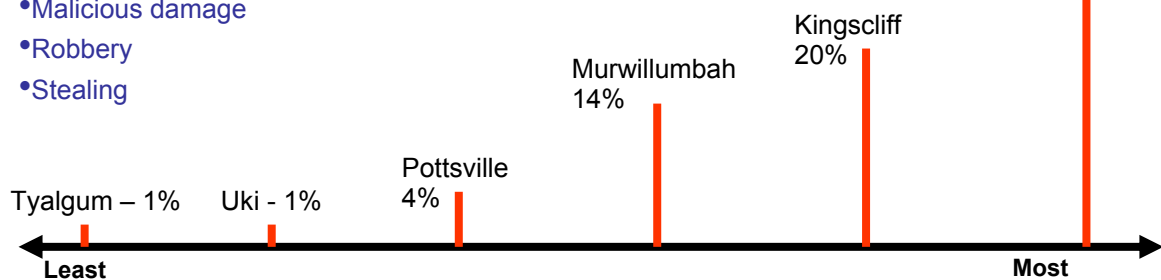
- how they would describe the 'most safe' community they could envisage,
- how they would describe the 'least safe' community they could envisage, and
- where their community sits on the continuum between 'most safe' and 'least safe'.

Although a relatively crude process, the diagram below indicates how participants perceived the level of safety within their community. The diagram also shows the percentage of Assaults, Break and Enters, Malicious Damage, Robbery and Stealing offences reported in each community during 2006.



Percentage of reported crime incidents by locality, 2006

- Assault
- Break and Enter
- Malicious damage
- Robbery
- Stealing



Across the six communities of interest - Banora Point, Kingscliff, Murwillumbah, Pottsville, Tyalgum and Uki – a 'most safe' community was described using words such as secure, without fear, respectful, friendly, supportive, interactive, quiet, orderly, familiar and stable. This is a community in which there are good facilities, home ownership, employment, children playing in the streets and occupied teenagers. This community has no graffiti, regular police patrols, well lit streets, responsive local government and community spirit.

A 'least safe' community was described as lawless, undisciplined, disrespectful, chaotic, violent, transient and experiencing high levels of cultural and inter-generational conflict. This community has a high crime rate, vandalism, drunkenness and underage drinking, roaming gangs, road rage, high unemployment and a lack of infrastructure and services.

Some interesting observations emerged:

- All communities were perceived to be safe during the daytime. Pottsville and Murwillumbah communities, in particular, noted a significant decrease in safety at night-time.
- Participants of the Banora Point consultation identified nine distinct areas which make up the community and rated them separately – most were perceived as relatively safe with the exception of South Tweed, Central Banora and Barney's Point.
- Factors other than crime rates influence perceptions of safety. This is demonstrated by the fact that Banora Point (with the exceptions noted above) had the highest percentage of reported crime yet was not rated as particularly unsafe. Murwillumbah, on the other hand, which had a relatively low percentage of reported crime, was rated as unsafe at night-time.

3.3 Anecdotal information about crime and crime related activity

Community stakeholder consultations indicated that the major crime related concerns in each of the communities of interest were as follows:

- *Banora Point* - Domestic violence, Property damage and Assault
- *Kingscliff* - Property damage, Stealing from motor vehicle and Stealing from building sites
- *Murwillumbah* - Retail theft, Property damage, Assault and Domestic violence
- *Pottsville* - Motor vehicle theft
- *Tyalgum* - Property damage and Stealing
- *Uki* - Break and Enter, Drugs and Property damage

Local Police were also able to provide a practical perspective on crime and crime related activity. The major issues raised by Police at Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah and Kingscliff were:

- Increasing involvement of alcohol in criminal activity. Police estimate that over 40 per cent of non-domestic violence related assaults are alcohol related, approximately 11 per cent of malicious damage offences are alcohol related and 1 in 14 intercepted drivers are affected by alcohol.

- Increased alcohol consumption, particularly among underage persons, leading to an increase in high-risk sexual activity and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

(Anti-social behaviour is any form of behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress to another person. It can include screaming/shouting, use of foul/abusive language that can be heard in a public place, noise, and other forms of public disturbance. Anti-social behaviour affects the quality of life of many individuals and communities and research shows that if left unchecked, anti-social behaviour creates an environment in which crime can occur.)

- Increasingly high levels of alcohol consumption at private parties occurring throughout the Shire each weekend, and including underage persons. Public areas, such as Knox Park in Murwillumbah, are also known sites where groups of people congregate and consume alcohol.
- Stealing from motor vehicles is a significant issue in isolated locations such as Mt Warning, commercial areas such as Murwillumbah and along the Tweed Coast.
- Major development occurring along the Tweed Coast, in particular, will place a significant strain on existing police resources.
- The Tweed Shire is part of the 'Golden Triangle' which extends from Surfers Paradise to Nimbin to Byron Bay. Drug related activity within this area is prevalent. There also appears to be a level of tolerance for drug taking within the community, particularly in relation to cannabis use.
- There is increasing concern within the community about the activities of 'youth gangs'. This perception appears to be largely fuelled by media reports of 'US style gangs' however there is little evidence to suggest that this type of 'gang' structure is developing within the Shire.
- There is a general reluctance to report crime. Often people think someone else will do it, or they don't want to get involved, or they believe that Police will not be able to do anything about the incident.

3.4 Summary of key issues

Available data and anecdotal information about crime and crime related activity highlights the following key areas of concern:

- The perception of safety within the Shire is relatively high during the daytime but decreases at night-time and in specific areas.
- Despite community concerns regarding a range of crime activity related to offences against the person and property throughout the Shire, the overall crime rates in the Tweed Shire over the past four years has been relatively stable in almost all crime categories.

- Recorded incidents during 2006 for selected offence categories in each of the communities of interest indicate that the Banora Point and Kingscliff communities recorded the highest number of offences. This trend may be related to increased development and high-volume tourist numbers – both factors which can increase the vulnerability of a location to crime.
- Increasing involvement of alcohol in all types of crime and crime related activity, particularly assaults, malicious damage and drink driving. The reported rate of Malicious Damage has consistently increased over the past 4 years.
- Increasing consumption of alcohol by young people, especially girls and underage persons.
- Increasing involvement of young people in crime, crime related activity and various forms of risky and anti-social behaviour.
- A perception within the community that there is increased involvement in crime and crime related activity by ‘youth gangs’.
- A general reluctance to report crime.

4. COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Public meetings, focus groups and key informant consultations were held with a diverse range of stakeholders including:

- Members of the general public in the Banora Point, Kingscliff, Murwillumbah, Pottsville, Tyalgum and Uki communities.
- Representatives of the New South Wales Police Force working in operational areas within Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah and Kingscliff, and also those working in crime prevention roles across the Tweed/Byron Local Area Command.
- Representatives of government departments and community based organisations providing health services and specific services to families, children, young people and indigenous communities.
- State Members of Parliament.
- Principals and teachers from schools in Banora Point, South Tweed, Murwillumbah and Kingscliff.
- Peak bodies representing aboriginal communities within the Shire.
- Representatives of peak business, economic development and tourism organisations within the Shire.
- Council officers involved in aboriginal liaison, community and cultural services, social planning and youth development.

The feedback received during consultations was largely anecdotal and may have been based on a mixture of professional observations and experience, personal observations and experience, and perceptions influenced by the media and others.

The community stakeholder feedback is intended to complement available data and secondary information and should not be read in isolation.

The overall feedback is presented below and falls under the following key areas:

- Reporting crime and the level of community awareness of and participation in crime prevention
- Specific crime related issues - Property security, Safety in public spaces and Road safety
- Issues relating to young people - anti-social behaviour, alcohol related activity and community perceptions about young people
- Alcohol management issues - issues relating to licensed premises, the impact of increasing numbers of licensed premises and public intoxication

4.1 Reporting crime and the level of community awareness of and participation in crime prevention

ISSUE	STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS
<p>It was generally acknowledged across the Shire that many incidents are not reported to Police and there is a general reluctance to report incidents unless absolutely necessary as in the case where an incident results in an insurance claim.</p>	<p>The reasons for not reporting incidents to Police included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The incidents are perceived as minor. • There is a belief that Police cannot do anything in response to the incident. • Community members acknowledge that local Police are under-resourced. • Some community members believe that Police don't respond positively to reports, especially when incidents are relatively minor. • There is often a long response time when Police are called to an incident. • There is a general lack of awareness of the '131444' number available for reporting matters that don't require immediate police attendance. • Many community members reported that they did not receive feedback from Police after reporting an incident and this made them reluctant to report any future incidents. • Incidents are often over by the time Police are able to respond. • There is no consistently visible police presence throughout the community, for example foot patrols, which many believe fuels the perception that Police are unable or unwilling to respond to incidents.

4.2 Specific crime related issues - Property security

LOCALITY - ISSUE	STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS
<p>Tyalgum – lack of crime prevention awareness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members reported that there was significant theft from properties (e.g. pumps and other farming equipment) due to the low level of property security. • Property owners frequently left their properties for significant periods of time leaving the doors of houses, garages and sheds unsecured and/or wide open. The contents left visible to everyone passing by or entering the property during the owner's absence. • These properties were, in the past, relatively isolated and the changing demographics of the area have resulted in increased population and movement in and out of the area. Residents, many who have lived in the area for years, have not changed their habits which include leaving their properties unsecured. While this may not have been a concern in the past, the increase in resident and transient population has increased the risk of property related crime, however property owners are not taking preventative measures.

<p>Murwillumbah – commercial property damage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial operators in Murwillumbah report regular incidents of broken shop windows, graffiti and vandalism. Proudfoots Lane was reported as an area which has been a continual challenge in this regard. • Property damage includes destruction of public rubbish bins, significant damage to trees and other vegetation in public spaces, and destruction of public telephone boxes.
<p>Banora Point – damage to private and public property.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community representatives reported significant concern about property damage to private and public property within this locality. • Incidents of minor property damage (e.g. damage to letter boxes and flower beds) were thought to be predominantly a result of alcohol consumption by young people in local parks. • Opportunistic break and enters of dwellings and motor vehicle theft were also reported. • Community members were also concerned about the presence of graffiti – particularly along Banora Hills Drive and Darlington Drive – and the message that this was sending about their community. • There was a widespread perception that many of these incidents were related to the congregation of young people in public parks at night, alcohol consumption and the lack of alternative recreational opportunities.
<p>Uki - damage to private and public property.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members reported incidents of breaking and entering into the post office, school and local shops at least every couple of months. • Lighting of fires and destruction of vegetation in the local parks was also fairly regular and attributed to under-age young people congregating in the park and the lack of local recreational opportunities for this age group.
<p>Kingscliff – motor vehicle theft, theft from motor vehicles and property security on construction sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism on construction sites, both during the construction phase and when buildings are at ‘lock-up’ stage, was reported as quite common in Kingscliff. The escalation of development in the area, together with the lack of security in and around the sites, was providing continual opportunities for opportunistic and organised theft. • Due to the high number of tourists visiting the Kingscliff area, especially during school and other peak holiday periods, the incidence of motor vehicle theft and theft from motor vehicles was a significant concern. It is apparently quite common for visitors to leave their vehicles unlocked, with their property left inside the vehicles, for many hours while they are on the beach.

Pottsville – theft from motor vehicles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft from motor vehicles parked near the beachfront was reported to be quite common in Pottsville. The natural vegetation and sand dunes between the beachfront and the roadway create a sight barrier which makes surveillance of vehicles from the beach impossible. It is suggested that the majority of offences are committed by locals who know that owners will not be returning to their vehicles for some time. Visitors, in particular, often do not take the usual precautions of properly securing their vehicles and belongings.
Mt Warning - theft from motor vehicles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns were expressed about property safety at Mt Warning, in particular theft from motor vehicles. Visitors often leave their vehicles for many hours while they are bush walking. Vehicles are frequently left unlocked increasing the risk of theft of and, in particular, from the vehicle.

4.3 Specific crime related issues - Safety in public spaces

LOCALITY	STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS
<p>The following locations were consistently identified as ‘high risk’ areas for public safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Murwillumbah Central Business District - Knox Park - Tyalgum Town Centre - Uki Town Centre - Kingscliff Central Business District - Beachfront at Kingscliff, Casuarina and Pottsville - Walking tracks around Casuarina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The major areas identified as ‘unsafe’ in Murwillumbah were Proudfoots Lane and Knox Park. • It was suggested that Proudfoots Lane was poorly lit and some shop owners had closed their entries onto Proudfoots Lane in response to concerns about shop thieves using the laneway as an escape route. This has impacted on the perception of safety in the area and the confidence of legitimate users of the laneway. • Knox Park has a reputation within the community of being unsafe. It is said to be frequented by ‘drug-users’ and groups of people drinking. Community members report significant concerns regarding safety in and around the park area. Council has recently undertaken consultations with young people about the future use of the park as a ‘youth space’. Participants in this consultation have suggested that they are not convinced that the park will be suitable for a ‘youth space’ and will require significant lighting, landscaping and security upgrades to increase its appeal to legitimate users, particularly at night-time. • Community members in Tyalgum and Uki unanimously agreed that their town centres lacked appropriate levels of lighting which increased the risk of crime and impacted on the perception of safety in these locations, particularly at night. • Uki residents nominated the memorial, bandstand, behind the buttery, Tweed River and creek, and school grounds as areas that particularly required lighting audits.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members in Kingscliff, Casuarina and Pottsville were concerned about lighting levels along the beachfront areas. These areas were increasingly used by locals and visitors for recreational purposes during the daytime and at night. Lack of appropriate lighting was a deterrent to legitimate users of these public spaces and often attracted other users who preferred to remain relatively undetected (e.g. under-age young people drinking alcohol). • Casuarina residents were particularly concerned about poor lighting along walkways which prevented women and children, in particular, from utilising these areas for exercise and transit.
General comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a general view in most communities, particularly those around Banora Point, Murwillumbah and Kingscliff, that closed circuit surveillance cameras should be installed as a deterrent to crime and to assist police in apprehending offenders. • During the course of this study, the Murwillumbah District Business Chamber and the Tweed Shire Council were awarded funds under the National Crime Prevention Program for the installation of closed circuit surveillance cameras in Murwillumbah and Kingscliff.

4.4 Specific crime related issues - Road safety

ISSUE	STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS
Speeding and other dangerous driving behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All locations reported significant concerns regarding a general increase in speeding in local streets, particularly by young drivers racing against each other ('hooning'). • The absence of road calming in many of the villages and new industrial estates within the Shire provides an open road for irresponsible driving behaviour including 'burnouts' and 'drag racing'. This issue was of particular concern to the Banora Point, Murwillumbah and Uki communities. • Members of the Tyalgum community noted the increasing numbers of motor cycle groups visiting the locality, particularly on weekends, and their disregard for speed limits. Significant concern was expressed regarding the high speed at which motorists approached the main intersection, near the hotel, where local children are often skateboarding.

Drink driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was widespread concern expressed across the Shire regarding the incidents of drink driving, including an alarming trend of under-age drink driving. • The lack of local transport infrastructure, especially after normal business hours, is thought to be a significant factor contributing to the increase in drink driving.
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4.5 Issues relating to young people - anti-social behaviour, alcohol related activity and community perceptions about young people

LOCALITY	DETAILS
Tyalgum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyalgum community members were significantly concerned about the increasing congregation of young people and children late at night around hotel. • Young people aged 7-15 years, in groups of 10-20 people, were regularly seen congregating around the hotel on Friday and Saturday nights. • It was thought that some of these children were there because their parents were in the hotel, while others congregated there to be with their friends and as a form of recreation. • Concerns were expressed about the potential for these young people to access alcohol. • Concerns were also expressed for their safety while they congregated and 'played' near the major intersection of the township. They are often seen skateboarding onto the road in front of oncoming vehicles. In the face of what residents perceive as a growing general disregard for speed limits in the township, especially by visitors, the risk to these young people, especially at night-time, is high. • There was also an acknowledgement that there were few other recreational opportunities for young people within the township, with many starting to move out of the area at high school age. • Community members found it difficult to engage young people in local community events.
Murwillumbah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members expressed significant concerns about the involvement of young people in crime and anti-social behaviour occurring predominantly on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. • Groups of young people, 14-16 years of age, sometimes up to forty in number, are reported congregating in the central business area at night-time at least 2-3 times each week. • Residents have reported being intimidated by 13-15 year olds wandering around the town centre at night in groups.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a general perception that there are ‘gangs’ of young people drinking, carrying knives and intimidating others in the community. They are alleged to be involved in activities such as the intimidation of older people, deflating car tyres, inciting violence and smashing car windows. • There is a general belief that much of this anti-social behaviour is attributable to boredom, lack of parental supervision and lack of policing within the area. • Knox Park was identified as a specific area where groups of up to 30 young people aged 12-19 years regularly congregate. • Two thirds of this group is believed to be legitimate and regular users of the park, mostly for skating. • Others are thought to be involved in a range of anti-social behaviour including drinking, illicit drug use, and bullying and harassment of other park users. • Syringes and evidence of drinking is regularly found in the park. • There is also a concern that the escalated development occurring within the Shire, and Murwillumbah itself, is forcing some people into ‘homelessness’ and ‘sleeping rough’ in places such as Knox Park is on the increase. • There is a general concern about the appropriateness of the current mix of young and old, legitimate and ‘illegitimate’ park users. Young people consulted reported that they have been told by their parents to never to go to Knox Park and that it is a definite “no go” zone after dark.
Banora Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a strong perception among community members in Banora Point and surrounding localities that there are teenage ‘gangs’ congregating in public spaces and streets throughout the area, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. • These ‘gangs’ are thought to number up to 15 young people aged 12-18 years. They are predominantly locals and are often either still at school or have recently left school. • They are often sighted in local parks smoking, drinking and having sexual intercourse. • It is alleged that they are aggressive towards each other and often fight each other. • Local residents report regularly feeling unsafe when they hear the groups moving through the streets.
Uki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members report groups of up to 12 young people aged 15-20 years congregating in the park late at night after the hotel closes, usually on Friday and Saturday nights.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are predominantly locals who have been observed sitting in groups drinking, shouting and using abusive language. It is alleged that they have damaged public property (e.g. garbage bins) and broken into the local school. • It is acknowledged that there are few recreational options for young people in the local community, particularly at night-time. • Transport to access events in Murwillumbah or Tweed Heads is limited during the daytime and non-existent at night-time.
Kingscliff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members observe that the prevalence of 'suburban gangs' has increased over the past six years. It is suggested that this can be attributed to the changing make-up of families and the desire by some young people to 'belong' to a common group of some sort. • It is suggested that the involvement of young people in vandalism, graffiti and other property damage within the local area occurs mainly in school holiday periods and on Friday and Saturday nights. • It is broadly acknowledged that there is a lack of transport and activities for young people. Many of them do not own/drive cars and cannot access recreational activities in other areas.
General comments	<p>There was widespread concern expressed about the following issues across the Shire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increasing number of 18-24 year olds leaving the Shire due to lack of work opportunities. This trend has a significant social and economic impact on the Shire, especially the smaller 'village' communities. • The increase in family dysfunction and the resulting parenting issues that have an impact on the whole community. • Increased high-risk sexual activity, particularly among under-age girls as young as 12 years. • It was broadly acknowledged that there is a need to identify good role models for young people within the local community. • The escalation of private parties due to the lack of alternative recreational activities. Event details are predominantly communicated via mobile text messaging and the internet. These parties pose a significant crowd control and alcohol management problems (including under-age drinking) because they are held on private property. They can also be a drain on the limited resources of local emergency services. • The ease of access to alcohol by young people – usually facilitated by older friends and family.

4.6 Alcohol management issues - issues relating to licensed premises, under-age drinking and public intoxication

LOCALITY	DETAILS
Murwillumbah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General feedback indicated that approximately 75 per cent of all crime and anti-social behaviour occurring in Murwillumbah and surrounding localities was alcohol related. • Alcohol related incidents included property damage and vandalism to both public and private property (e.g. broken shop windows, garbage bins, telephone boxes, landscaping) and graffiti. • These incidents are believed to occur mostly on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, and after major events, as intoxicated patrons made their way home from licensed premises. • Petty arguments through to serious assaults are also believed to be alcohol related and occur mainly after 10.00pm on Friday and Saturday nights. • Feedback suggests that increasing numbers of women, particularly those making their way home from work, are increasingly being intimidated by patrons utilising the street-front 'designated smoking areas' of some licensed premises.
Banora Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community feedback suggests that the major alcohol related issue in Banora Point and surrounding localities is the easy access to alcohol by young people. • This has resulted in an increase in under-age drinking on the streets and in other public places and subsequent anti-social and crime related activity. • Community members have observed parents dropping their teenage children at local parks with alcohol. Others ask older friends to purchase alcohol for them.
Kingscliff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback indicated that there are regular occurrences on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights of anti-social behaviour along the foreshore involving groups of young people aged 13-30 years. Some have been drinking at the hotel and others have been congregating and drinking along the foreshore. Older people often purchase alcohol for the younger people before the hotel closes.
Pottsville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community feedback suggests that there are regular fights around the tavern at 9-10pm on Thursday, Friday and some Saturday nights. • Bottles and glasses are thrown onto the roadway and into neighbouring properties. • Residents believe that those involved are intoxicated locals who have purchased alcohol from the tavern and are drinking it on the way home.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is also a significant amount of observed under-age drinking and secondary supply of alcohol to minors.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is general concern within the broader Shire community about the impact of alcohol, and related crime and anti-social behaviour. The Tweed Hospital, for example, reports that over 30 per cent of hospital incidents where security is called are alcohol related. The Department of Community Services reports that 60 per cent of matters that come to their attention involve alcohol. • There is an equally significant concern about the ease of access to alcohol by under-age persons and binge drinking. Parents, brothers, sisters, friends, and other teenagers who will purchase alcohol for a \$5 'fee' have been identified as the major secondary suppliers. The lack of responsible service practices at 'drive-thrus' has also been identified as a contributing factor. • Community feedback, particularly from young people, suggests that many drinkers, and in particular those who are under age, are not aware of the impact and health risks associated with alcohol. This has been attributed largely to the effective marketing of seemingly harmless sweet alcoholic drinks such as Passion Pop, the popularity of mixer drinks such as 'rum & coke' and the cost effectiveness of 'goons'.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Overview

In line with its eclectic nature, the Tweed Shire is characterised by positive signs of continued growth in residential population and annual tourist numbers, alongside significant indicators of disadvantage among some sectors of the community.

More than one fifth of the overall current population is aged over 65 years. There is an increasingly high percentage of households comprising Lone Persons or Couples without Children. The unemployment rate is higher than the state average and there is a high percentage of low income earners - almost one in every five people aged over 15 years currently earning less than \$349 per week. Continued growth and development along the Tweed Coast and redevelopment occurring in the more densely populated areas of the Shire, such as Tweed Heads, may also result in a potentially significant number of homeless people becoming increasingly visible due to a lack of affordable housing.

The mix of high growth and significant disadvantage in some sectors of the community can result in an increased risk of crime and crime related activity.

Available data and anecdotal information about crime and crime related activity within the Shire indicates that the Shire is perceived as a relatively safe place during the daytime. Perceptions of safety decrease at night-time and in specific areas.

While the overall crime rates in the Tweed Shire over the past four years have been relatively stable in almost all crime categories, recorded incidents during 2006 for selected offence categories in each of the communities of interest indicate that the Banora Point and Kingscliff communities recorded the highest number of offences. This trend may be related to increased development and high-volume tourist numbers – both factors which can increase the vulnerability of a location to crime.

There has also been an increasing involvement of alcohol in all types of crime and crime related activity, particularly assaults, malicious damage and drink driving. The reported rate of malicious damage has consistently increased over the past 4 years, and is related directly to the widespread community concern about the impacts of alcohol.

These trends may, to some extent, explain why there is growing community concern regarding personal and property safety throughout the Shire. A consistent comment during community stakeholder consultations was how “things have changed over the past two years”.

Within the changing social and economic context of the Shire, specific groups such as young people, the elderly, the homeless and indigenous populations may experience a heightened degree of vulnerability. Development is not always accompanied by the appropriate level of social infrastructure required to support new and growing communities.

On the other hand, a period of growth and development can also provide opportunities to implement crime prevention strategies aimed at preventing an escalation in crime and fear of crime.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design strategies can, for example, be implemented before and during development and can significantly assist in mitigating some of the potential risks associated with crime. Similarly, engaging the community in the development of complementary community-based crime prevention strategies can strengthen the resilience of local communities.

5.2 Key crime prevention issues

Following the data collection and consultation phases of this project, a strategic planning workshop was convened by Tweed Shire Council. Participants included potential member of the Crime Prevention Action Committee that would take carriage of the implementation of this plan. Attachment B provides a complete list of participants.

At this workshop, the data and information collected during this study was considered with a view to agreeing on the priority issues that would provide a focus for the Crime Prevention Action Plan for the next three years. Participants agreed that the strategic focus of the plan would be on the following key areas:

1. Engaging the community to better support policing efforts by increasing the reporting of crime and crime related activity within the Shire.
2. Engaging the community to better support policing efforts by increasing community awareness of and participation in crime prevention throughout the Shire.
3. Engaging the community to shift perceptions about young people and support their positive development and involvement in community life.
4. Preventing crime and increasing safety within the Shire through better environmental design.
5. Working collaboratively with key stakeholders to effectively address alcohol management issues in and around licensed premises, and in public spaces.

Engaging the community to better support policing efforts by increasing the reporting of crime and crime related activity within the Shire

There is broad community acknowledgement throughout the Shire that reporting of crime is not as effective as it could be. Despite general community perceptions and concerns about the capacity of Police to respond to crime and crime related incidents, there is also an understanding that not reporting crime and crime related activity can have a negative impact on the community.

For example, if crime is not reported then Police cannot form an accurate assessment of the extent and nature of crime within the Shire. This can have significant implications for the allocation of Police resources and in the setting of policing priorities and objectives.

Community stakeholders believed that the rate of reporting crime and crime related activity to Police could be considerably enhanced by:

- Increasing the awareness of community members of how Police process, prioritise and respond to calls for service.
- Actively promoting the Police Assistance Line - 131444 – for the reporting of non-urgent matters.
- Provision of regular feedback by Police to the community about crime and crime related issues within the Shire, how they are being addressed and how the community can assist.

The Tweed Link and other local newspapers were identified as appropriate mechanisms for regular information sharing with the community and targeted promotional campaigns.

The Kingscliff Chamber of Commerce conducted a successful local promotional campaign about the Police Assistance Line - 131444 – by producing and distributing a refrigerator magnet with details of key emergency services numbers (including the 131444 number) to all households. This campaign could be easily repeated in other areas of the Shire and could have the additional benefit of engaging key business and community groups in crime prevention.

Council's information pack for new residents could also include a refrigerator magnet.

Engaging the community to better support policing efforts by increasing community awareness of and participation in crime prevention throughout the Shire

The demographic changes in the Tweed Shire over the past five years have been particularly significant in the northern and coastal parts of the Shire. A large proportion of the population (almost 40 per cent) in these areas, have been resident in the Shire for less than five years, and the Shire is increasingly attracting significant numbers of domestic long-stay visitors and day-trippers. Strategies aimed at increasing the level of awareness and participation in crime prevention activities must, therefore, be targeted at both these potentially vulnerable groups.

- Residents

Many of the Shire's new residents would still be in the process of developing a sense of 'community', building local relationships and networks. Many are single and blended families, and often socio-economically disadvantaged. Relocating and establishing a 'sense of place' within a new community can often take time.

Communities with a high proportion of new residents usually do not have established community traditions and links that would easily support participation in community activities, including crime prevention.

Council's information pack for new residents could, in particular, contain specific information about property security and community based crime prevention strategies such as Neighbourhood Watch.

Proactive promotion of the availability of Council's information pack for new residents could also enhance access to crime prevention information by new residents. The dispatch of a welcome letter, including the information pack, could be triggered by the registration of a new ratepayer's details with Council.

- Tourists

The Shire is increasingly attracting significant numbers of domestic long-stay visitors and day-trippers. In 'holiday mode', visitors often relax the normal precautions they take in relation to personal and property safety. In the coastal areas of the Shire, there is an increased risk that they could become victims of crime, in particular motor vehicle theft and theft from motor vehicles.

The viability and sustainability of the Tweed tourism market is dependent upon its reputation for being a safe place. Yet, it is often difficult to engage visitors in local crime prevention activities. However, there is an opportunity to engage those critical in the provision of services to visitors – such as accommodation houses, car rental agencies, local stores and restaurants – in getting key crime prevention messages out to visitors, particularly in peak holiday periods.

Engaging the community to shift perceptions about young people and support their positive development and involvement in community life

A number of studies and projects have been undertaken to investigate and meet the needs of young people within the Tweed Shire. In 2006 Tweed Shire Council undertook a youth needs assessment to underpin Council's strategy for youth development. New South Wales Police and Tweed Shire Council facilitated a Youth Crime Prevention Forum in February 2007. The service providers' forum identified a diverse range of concerns and ideas in key areas relevant to young people including drugs and alcohol, safe and affordable housing, use of technology, groups of young people and organised gangs. The next stage of this project is to engage young people in this process.

A number of key issues emerged during the current study in relation to young people:

- Young people want to be involved and provide ideas on matters relevant to their age cohort. Some of the schools within the Shire (e.g. Wollumbin High School) already have organised student representative groups who would be able to work within existing processes – such as the Crime Prevention Action Plan – given sufficient time to consult with their peers about issues under consideration.

- There is a strong perception throughout the Shire that young people operate in organised 'gangs' and engage in crime and crime related activity, often in combination with alcohol abuse. This perception is often fuelled by media reports which do not often present a balanced picture of young people.

There are, nevertheless, some young people who require support in making the right choices. Programs, such as 'Cool Heads', provide an opportunity for at-risk young people to build their confidence through access to relevant support services and good role models.

The 'Cool Heads' program, which has previously operate successfully in the Shire, aims to reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour, either as potential victims or offenders. It has a community safety focus and provides support through engaging with young people who do not usually access services, and linking them to relevant support services. 'Cool Heads' needs to be established as a sustainable support service for young people within the Shire.

- The indigenous communities of the Shire also expressed concern regarding the developmental support required by young indigenous people. It was suggested that a special project be developed in Fingal which utilised the traditional methods of story-telling, music, healing and cooking over an open fire at night to bring together young indigenous people and elders to speak openly about issues and problem solve together.

Preventing crime and increasing safety within the Shire through better environmental design

The growth and development that has been occurring throughout the Shire has brought with it both opportunities and threats in relation to community safety and crime prevention. Incidents of crime have increased, particularly in categories of crime that are property related, and many are associated with excessive alcohol consumption. Perceptions of safety have changed with most communities recognising that many places within the Shire are not as safe as they once were.

Community consultations have indicated that there is broad recognition of the contribution that good environmental design can play in maintaining safety. The issue of inadequate lighting, for example, is a wide-spread concern throughout the Shire.

Lighting is only one aspect of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED is a crime prevention philosophy based on proper design and effective use of the built environment leading to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime, as well fostering positive social interaction among legitimate users of a place.

There are three approaches to managing the physical environment in ways that will reduce fear of crime and the opportunity for crime:

1. Natural - the integration of security and behavioural concepts into how human and physical resources are designed and used (e.g. windows, lighting, way-finding).
2. Organised - the introduction of labour-intensive security (e.g. guards, police, security patrols).
3. Mechanical - the introduction of capital or hardware-intensive security (e.g. locks, closed circuit television, security lighting).

Good design alone cannot be expected to solve crime, however considered positive planning can make a significant contribution to minimising the opportunities for crime to occur and enhancing overall community safety. Planning for safety also makes sense financially. Getting it right the first time saves on the future costs of correcting or managing poorly designed development.

During this study specific areas were identified that would benefit from a CPTED audit. These were Murwillumbah Central Business District, Kingscliff Central Business District, Tyalgum Town Centre, Uki Town Centre, Knox Park, walking tracks around Casuarina, and the beachfront areas along Kingscliff, Casuarina and Pottsville.

CPTED audits are a very effective vehicle for engaging the community in crime prevention and can raise awareness of and participation in crime prevention.

Developing an appropriate response to growing concerns about graffiti throughout the Shire may also present another valuable opportunity for community engagement. Community members – in particular young people, seniors and indigenous community members – could be actively involved in the development of a community arts program that identifies sites where graffiti is prevalent and engages local people in transforming these areas with legal street art.

In response to community concerns about crime and safety, Council and the Murwillumbah District Business Chamber have already successfully applied to the Federal Government's Crime Prevention Funding Program for funds to install a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system in Murwillumbah and Kingscliff. CPTED audits in these areas would assist in developing other community safety strategies to support the new CCTV system. It is well documented that CCTV has minimal preventative impact particularly when incidents are alcohol related. However, CCTV in combination with appropriate community-based crime prevention strategies can have a significant impact in the prevention, detection and deterrence of crime and crime related activity.

Crime prevention is most successful when it is integrated into existing community planning and development and is part of maintaining a viable welcoming community.

To this end, it has been suggested that developers could contribute to increased safety through contributions to surveillance cameras, lighting, public space and the maintenance of public infrastructure (e.g. parks, telephone booths, bus shelters).

Council would also benefit from staff training in 'Safer by Design', a CPTED training program offered by the New South Wales Police. This would facilitate Council working effectively with developers, and other community stakeholders, to achieve the best possible CPTED outcomes.

Working collaboratively with key stakeholders to effectively address alcohol management issues in and around licensed premises, and in public spaces

The increasing involvement of alcohol in crime and crime related activity within the Shire is a significant concern. Much of the attention to these issues is focused on licensed premises, however it is acknowledged that excessive drinking in public spaces and in private homes is also having an impact on the broader community.

Liquor Accords have been developed in Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah. Participation is not mandatory, however local Police work closely with licensees to encourage their participation and engagement in local problem-solving. The Accords provide a regular forum for licensees and relevant authorities to share information, identify emerging issues and discuss how to best manage alcohol related issues.

Given the escalated development that is occurring along the Tweed Coast, and the growing concerns about alcohol related issues in key community centres such as Kingscliff and Pottsville, it may be timely for a Liquor Accord to be developed for the Tweed Coast.

Excessive alcohol consumption by young people, often under-age young people, in public places and in private homes is another significant concern throughout the Shire. It is generally acknowledged that this is not simply a Tweed Shire issue but is one that is concerning communities across New South Wales and Australia.

It is broadly recognised that the current 'drinking culture' has a significant impact on adult consumption and also on what young people view as appropriate levels of consumption. These impacts can often be seen in sporting clubs where there is a high tolerance for alcohol consumption and where sponsorship by alcohol manufacturers, distributors and retailers is common.

Local communities, through their sporting clubs, can play an important role in changing the 'drinking culture'. 'Good Sports' is a national community development program which is working to develop safe and healthy communities by providing leadership and support to community sports clubs to manage alcohol responsibly. The Good Sports program aims to reduce alcohol and other drug problems, increase the viability of sporting clubs and improve the range and quality of sports options available within the community. Supported by the Department of Gaming and Racing, and New South Wales Police, many local councils have also become partners in promoting and coordinating the delivery of the Good Sports Program in their community.

5.3 The Tweed Shire Crime Prevention Action Committee

Tweed Shire Council through its *Tweed Futures 04/24* has a significant stated commitment to community safety. There are clear priorities given to safeguarding quality of life, creating safe communities, promoting community wellbeing, working in collaboration and partnership and creating resilient and sustainable communities.

Council and other community stakeholders have already been working collaboratively as part of the Tweed/Byron Police Accountability Community Team (PACT). PACT is a forum for the community to express its views about police visibility, police deployment and crime generally. The purpose of PACT is to:

- ensure Local Area Commanders are accountable to their local communities;
- encourage community partnerships to reduce crime and the fear of crime;
- develop local solutions to local crime in partnership with local stakeholders;
- improve public safety and reduce the fear of crime at a local level;
- raise understanding of the relationship between policing and crime reduction; and
- ensure Commanders take into account local community views on police visibility, police deployment and crime hotspots when deciding police tasking and deployment.

It is recommended that the Tweed Shire Crime Prevention Action Committee be established as a broader forum for the coordination of crime prevention activities within the Shire, incorporating PACT. Police representation is critical to the success of the Action Team and, in this regard, the purpose of PACT will continue to be served by the broader forum.

This will also allow the Tweed Shire Crime Prevention Action Committee to engage appropriate representation from key community stakeholder groups including Local Government, New South Wales Police, the Department of Community Services, New South Wales Health and other health services, local schools, youth, Aboriginal community and business groups.

6. TWEED SHIRE CRIME PREVENTION ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2011

6.1 Engaging the community to better support policing efforts by increasing reporting of crime and crime related activity within the Shire

Strategy	Outputs	Resources	Recommended lead agency	Partner Agencies	Timeframe*	Outcomes
Regular information sharing with the community	Monthly 'Crime Prevention' column in the Tweed Link	Project management Contributions from key stakeholder agencies	Tweed Shire Council	New South Wales Police	Short-Term	Increase reporting by community members of crime and crime related matters to Police through the provision of regular feedback to the community about crime and crime related issues within the Shire, how they are being addressed and how the community can assist.
Promotion of the Police Assistance Line - 131444 – for the reporting of non-urgent matters	'Emergency Numbers' refrigerator magnets	Funding (Safer Community Compact Grant)	Tweed Shire Council	New South Wales Police Chambers of Commerce Neighbourhood Watch Groups	Medium-term	Increase reporting by community members of crime and crime related matters to Police through a better understanding of how Police process, prioritise and respond to calls for service.

* Timeframes are indicated as Short-Term (1-6 months), Medium-Term (7-18 months) and Long-Term (19-36 months)

6.2 Engaging the community to better support policing efforts by increasing community awareness of and participation in crime prevention throughout the Shire

Strategy	Outputs	Resources	Recommended lead agency	Partner Agencies	Timeframe*	Outcomes
Incorporating information about property security and community based crime prevention strategies such as Neighbourhood Watch in Council's information pack for new residents	<p>Welcome letter, including the information pack, dispatched to all new ratepayers</p> <p>Additional information about property security and community based crime prevention strategies for insertion into information pack</p> <p>'Emergency Numbers' refrigerator magnets</p>	Additional information about property security and community based crime prevention strategies	Tweed Shire Council	New South Wales Police	Short-Term	Reduce property crime by increasing community awareness about steps that can be taken to prevent property crime and how to become involved in local crime prevention activities
Undertaking a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design audit of coastal hot spots for motor vehicle theft and theft from motor vehicle	Identification of specific environmental design issues which may be creating opportunities for theft from motor vehicles	Existing Police resources	New South Wales Police	<p>Tweed Shire Council</p> <p>Kingscliff Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch Groups</p>	Medium-Term	Reduce the incidents of theft from motor vehicles through target hardening

* Timeframes are indicated as Short-Term (1-6 months), Medium-Term (7-18 months) and Long-Term (19-36 months)

Strategy	Outputs	Resources	Recommended lead agency	Partner Agencies	Timeframe*	Outcomes
Developing a targeted campaign to encourage property security by visitors	Development of information brochure with key crime prevention and safety messages	Funding (Safer Community Compact Grant)	Tweed Shire Council	New South Wales Police Accommodation houses, car rental agencies, local stores and restaurants in key coastal areas of the Shire	Medium-Term	Enhance overall safety and reduce the opportunity for property crime, including theft of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles, targeting visitors

* Timeframes are indicated as Short-Term (1-6 months), Medium-Term (7-18 months) and Long-Term (19-36 months)

6.3 Engaging the community to shift perceptions about young people and support their positive development and involvement in community life

Strategy	Outputs	Resources	Recommended lead agency	Partner Agencies	Timeframe*	Outcomes
Developing and evaluating a model for the effective participation of young people in the Crime Prevention Action Committee	Quarterly input on issues specifically pertaining to young people	Project management	Tweed Shire Council (Youth Development Officer)	Wollumbin High School	Medium-Term	Shift the perception of young people within the Shire by actively involving them in community life and problem-solving issues relevant to their age cohort
Provision of practical skills development and work experience opportunities for young people who have fallen out of the school system, in particular boys aged between 15-16 years	'Green Corps' style skills development program	Department of Family and Community Services – Stronger Families and Communities Strategy Department of Industrial Relations and Employment – Skills Gap Program, Jobs for Youth Program	Tweed Shire Council (Youth Development Officer)	Tweed Shire Youth Service Providers' Network	Long-Term	Address behavioural issues and risks of potential involvement in crime of young people through early intervention
Development of a sustainable 'Cool Heads' outreach program for young people throughout the Shire	Mobile service	Corporate sponsorship Project Coordinator Volunteers	Tweed Shire Council (Youth Development Officer)	Tweed Shire Youth Service Providers' Network New South Wales Police	Medium-Term	Reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in crime and crime related activity and enhance their safety through the provision of a well supported and accessible outreach program

* Timeframes are indicated as Short-Term (1-6 months), Medium-Term (7-18 months) and Long-Term (19-36 months)

Strategy	Outputs	Resources	Recommended lead agency	Partner Agencies	Timeframe*	Outcomes
Developing and evaluating a project aimed at providing developmental support for indigenous young people at Fingal	Program of regular 'camp-fire' events engaging young indigenous people	Seed funding to support specific activities (Safer Community Compact Grant) Relevant permits	Tweed Shire Council (Aboriginal Liaison Officer)	Tweed Shire Aboriginal Advisory Committee Aboriginal Land Council	Medium-Term	Reduce the risk of young indigenous people becoming involved in crime and crime related activity and enhance their safety through the provision of culturally relevant social development opportunities

* Timeframes are indicated as Short-Term (1-6 months), Medium-Term (7-18 months) and Long-Term (19-36 months)

6.4 Preventing crime and increasing safety within the Shire through better environmental design

Strategy	Outputs	Resources	Recommended lead agency	Partner Agencies	Timeframe*	Outcomes
<p>Engaging community in an assessment of the design and activity management features of high risk areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Murwillumbah Central Business District - Kingscliff Central Business District - Tyalgum Town Centre - Uki Town Centre - Knox Park - Walking tracks around Casuarina - Beachfront at Kingscliff, Casuarina and Pottsville 	<p>Up-to-date CPTED audits</p> <p>Integration of community-based crime prevention strategies with CCTV systems in Murwillumbah and Kingscliff</p>	Volunteers	New South Wales Police	Tweed Shire Council	Medium-Term	<p>Reduce opportunities for crime and fear for safety in specific locations within the Shire</p> <p>Engage the community in crime prevention and raise their awareness of and participation in crime prevention activities</p>
<p>Developing a community arts program in response to growing concerns about graffiti</p>	<p>Identification of sites where graffiti is prevalent</p> <p>Development of appropriate opportunities for legal street art</p>	<p>Funding for engagement of legal street artist to work with young people</p> <p>(Safer Community Compact Grant)</p>	Tweed Shire Council (Youth Development Officer)	<p>Tweed Shire Youth Service Providers' Network</p> <p>New South Wales Police</p>	Medium-Term	<p>Reduce the incidents of illegal street art (graffiti) and engage community members – specifically young people, seniors and indigenous community members - in local problem solving</p>

* Timeframes are indicated as Short-Term (1-6 months), Medium-Term (7-18 months) and Long-Term (19-36 months)

Strategy	Outputs	Resources	Recommended lead agency	Partner Agencies	Timeframe*	Outcomes
Providing essential training for Council staff in CPTED	<p>Identification of staff whose roles/responsibilities would benefit from CPTED training</p> <p>Provision of training</p>	Funding	Tweed Shire Council	New South Wales Police	Medium-Term	Enhance crime prevention and community safety through the effective application of CPTED principles
Working with property developers in providing important community infrastructure to prevent crime and enhance safety	<p>Identification of critical infrastructure that contributes to crime prevention and community safety that could reasonably be funded by developer contributions</p>	<p>Review of Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 – Developer Contributions for Community Facilities</p>	Tweed Shire Council		Long-Term	Enhance crime prevention and community safety through the provision of community infrastructure that decreases the opportunity for crime and improve safety

* Timeframes are indicated as Short-Term (1-6 months), Medium-Term (7-18 months) and Long-Term (19-36 months)

6.5 Working collaboratively with key stakeholders to effectively address alcohol management issues in and around licensed premises, and in public spaces

Strategy	Outputs	Resources	Recommended lead agency	Partner Agencies	Timeframe*	Outcomes
Development of a Liquor Accord for the Tweed Coast	Liquor Accord	Good will	New South Wales Police Service	Tweed Shire Council Kingscliff Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term	Reduce alcohol related incidents in and around licensed premises
Implementation of the Good Sports Program	Identification of local sporting clubs who would benefit from participating in the Good Sports Accreditation Program Implementation of the program	Promotional campaign	Tweed Shire Council	Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation Department of Gaming and Racing New South Wales Police	Medium-Term	Reduce alcohol and other drug problems, increase the viability of sporting clubs and improve the range and quality of sports options available within the Shire

* Timeframes are indicated as Short-Term (1-6 months), Medium-Term (7-18 months) and Long-Term (19-36 months)

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New South Wales Department of Planning - Tweed Heads Ministerial Taskforce (2004) *Economic Development Strategy for the Tweed Heads Town Centre*

RMIT University & Swinburne Institute of Technology, *Counting the Homeless 2001: New South Wales*

South Coast Youth Project (2004) *Youth Activity Scan – Report on Findings*
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Tweed Shire Council, *Tweed Futures 04/24*

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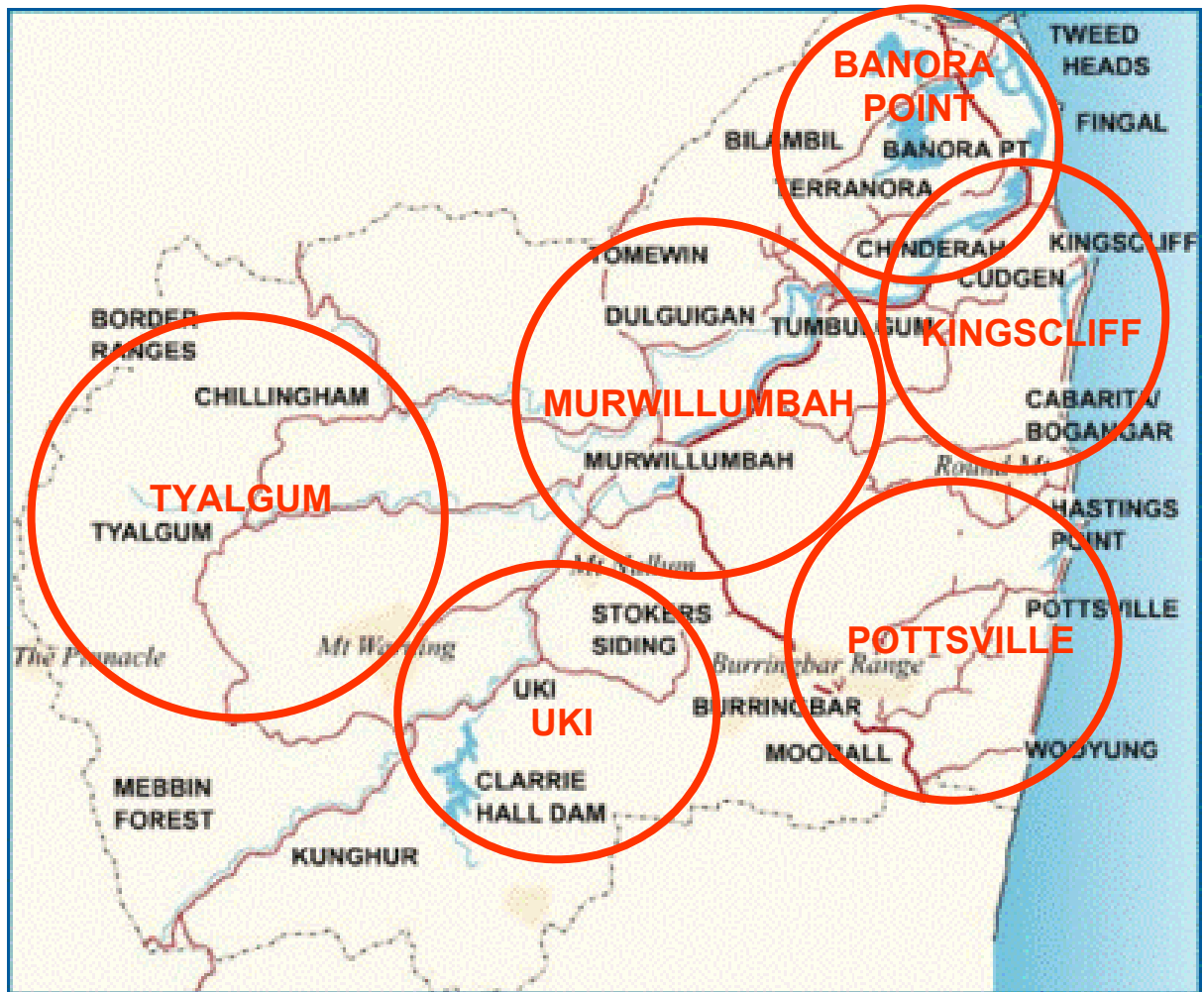
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ATTACHMENT A

Tweed Shire Communities of Interest



ATTACHEMENT B

Stakeholder Consultation List

Individual Consultations

NAME	ORGANISATION
Ken Allison	Deputy Principal Kingscliff High School
David Boutkan	The Family Centre
Terry Collier	Manager, Tweed Heads Department of Community Services
Karen Connell	Principal Wollumbin High School
Gary Corbett	Manager, Community & Cultural Services Tweed Shire Council
Sergeant Stuart Crawford	Crime Prevention Unit Tweed–Byron Local Area Command New South Wales Police Force
Justine Elliott MP	Federal Member for Richmond
Sue Follent	Aboriginal Health Service Coordinator Bugalwena Health Service Tweed Heads Community Health Centre
Sergeant Mark Garner	Officer-In-Charge Kingscliff Police Station New South Wales Police Force
Sergeant Bill Henry	Officer-In-Charge Murwillumbah Police Station New South Wales Police Force
Narelle Howell	Principal Tweed River High School
Tony Judd	Service Delivery Manager Surfside Buslines Pty Ltd
Lesley Mye	Aboriginal Liaison Officer Tweed Shire Council
Paul Raphael	Occupational Health & Safety Manager Tweed Heads District Hospital
Max Richardson	Safety & Security Manager Murwillumbah District Hospital
June Rogan	Principal Banora Point High School
Senior Constable Grant Seddon	Crime Prevention Unit Tweed–Byron Local Area Command New South Wales Police Force
Tom Senti	Director/Chief Executive Officer Tweed Economic Development Corporation
Robin Spragg	Social Planner Tweed Shire Council
Margaret Strong	Youth Development Officer Tweed Shire Council
Carmel Thew	Principal Murwillumbah High School

Individual Consultations (continued)

NAME	ORGANISATION
Michael Tree	President Tweed Heads Chamber of Commerce
Terry Watson	General Manager Tweed Tourism
Phil Youngblutt	President Murwillumbah District Business Chamber Ltd

Group Consultations

Aboriginal Land Council
Kingscliff Chamber of Commerce
Student Voice, Wollumbin High School
Tweed Shire Aboriginal Advisory Committee
Tweed Youth Service Providers' Network

Public Meeting - Banora Point

NAME	ORGANISATION
Clinton Beisler	Banora Point & District Residents Association
Fran Beisler	Banora Point & District Residents Association
Eric Hammermaster	Oxley Cove Community Group
Barry Nobbs	Banora Point & District Residents Association
Moira Nobbs	Banora Point & District Residents Association
Nancye Parker	Oxley Cove Community Group
Geoff Provest MP	Banora Point Resident State Member for Tweed

Public Meeting - Kingscliff

NAME	ORGANISATION
Megan Brodhurst-Hill	Casuarina Residents Association
Bill Engwinde	Bill Engwinde Building Contractor
Robert Kinggee	Kingscliff Resident
Brian Lewis	Kingscliff Chamber of Commerce
Geoff Provest MP	State Member for Tweed
Joni Tarantini	Casuarina Residents Association

Public Meeting - Murwillumbah

NAME	ORGANISATION
Robert Carr	Murwillumbah District Business Chamber Ltd
N Duff (Tassie)	YHA Backpackers Hostel
Narelle Feltham	Murwillumbah Resident
Elizabeth Good	Murwillumbah Resident
Erroll Gordon	Murwillumbah District Business Chamber Ltd
Barrie Green	Town Palms Motel
W Hesser	Murwillumbah Resident
Murray Lees	Murwillumbah District Business Chamber Ltd

Public Meeting – Murwillumbah (continued)

NAME	ORGANISATION
Chadwick Sheather	Terranora Resident
Vic Sparks	Nobby's Creek Resident
Frank Stadler	Murwillumbah Resident
Phil Taylor	Murwillumbah Resident
Debbie Woods	Bray Park/ Murwillumbah Resident
Phil Youngblutt	Murwillumbah District Business Chamber Ltd

Public Meeting - Pottsville

NAME	ORGANISATION
Lilian Delboux	Pottsville Neighbourhood Watch
Len Greer	Pottsville Community Association
Geoff Provest MP	State Member for Tweed
Carol Vimpani	Pottsville Community Association
Peter Vimpani	Pottsville Community Association

Public Meeting - Tyalgum

NAME	ORGANISATION
Auriel Bartrim	Tyalgum Resident
Bruce Bartrim	Tyalgum Resident
Peter Bennett	Tyalgum Resident
Geoff Burfoot	Tyalgum Resident
Karen Dixon	Tyalgum Resident
Robert Rowney	Limpinwood Resident
Robyn Rowney	Limpinwood Resident
Doris Tully	Tyalgum Resident

Public Meeting - Uki

NAME	ORGANISATION
Paul Harding	Uki Resident
Julie Lewin	Uki Guesthouse
Eddie Roberts	Uki Residents Association
Maggie Wilkins-Russell	Uki Guesthouse
Chris Wood	Uki Dental
Elissa Wood	Uki Pharmacy

Submissions received in writing

Banora Point & District Residents Association
Neville Duff (Tassie), Murwillumbah Resident
Anne Honeyman, Pottsville Beach Resident

Strategic Planning Workshop Participants

NAME	ORGANISATION
Clint Beisler	Banora Point & District Residents Association Delegate for Geoff Provest MP, State Member for Tweed
Peter Bennett	Tyalgum District Community Association
Gary Corbett	Manager, Community & Cultural Services, Tweed Shire Council
Bec Couch	Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer
Lesley Mye	Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Tweed Shire Council
Karen Spiers	Youth Liaison Officer Delegate for Superintendent Michael Kenny, Tweed/Byron Local Area Commander, New South Wales Police Force
Robin Spragg	Social Planner, Tweed Shire Council
Margaret Strong	Youth Development Officer, Tweed Shire Council
Jamie Tasker	Beachside Church, Pottsville
Phil Youngblutt	President, Murwillumbah District Business Chamber Ltd

ATTACHEMENT C

Recorded incidents of selected offences in the Tweed Local Government Area Annual totals and 60 month trend from January 2002 to December 2006

Offence	Jan 2002 to Dec 2002	Jan 2003 to Dec 2003	Jan 2004 to Dec 2004	Jan 2005 to Dec 2005	Jan 2006 to Dec 2006	60 month trend	Average annual percentage change
Murder	1	0	1	0	1	Not Calculated*	**
Assault - Not domestic violence related	343	377	330	348	392	Stable	**
Assault - Domestic violence related	217	216	229	235	278	Stable	**
Sexual assault	41	40	64	71	45	Stable	**
Indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences	64	81	50	68	62	Stable	**
Robbery without a weapon	23	17	14	19	12	Not Calculated*	**
Robbery with a firearm	1	0	2	0	3	Not Calculated*	**
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	3	5	6	7	7	Not Calculated*	**
Break and enter - dwelling	512	511	358	365	367	Down	-8.0%
Break and enter - non-dwelling	397	376	372	332	334	Down	-4.2%
Motor vehicle theft	258	244	208	239	264	Stable	**
Steal from motor vehicle	787	590	499	503	577	Down	-7.5%
Steal from retail store	249	364	300	229	230	Stable	**
Steal from dwelling	358	377	370	379	338	Stable	**
Steal from person	54	64	39	50	58	Stable	**
Malicious damage to property	682	794	759	925	905	Up	7.3%

* A trend is not calculated if at least one 12 month period in the selected timeframe had less than 20 incidents.

** No annual percentage change is given if the trend is stable or if a trend has not been calculated.

Source: New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

ATTACHEMENT D

Recorded incidents of selected offences in the defined Communities of Interest within the Tweed Shire: 2002-2006

BANORA POINT	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Assault	305	338	309	314	400
Break and Enter	267	292	251	209	185
Drug Detection	88	142	150	127	118
Fraud	248	217	247	236	199
Major Motor vehicle crash	452	345	378	333	391
Malicious damage	192	232	235	309	288
Robbery	14	11	19	19	16
Stealing	569	623	552	481	465
Stolen vehicle	74	70	70	78	79
KINGSCLIFF	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Assault	108	117	114	121	120
Break and Enter	99	75	61	70	101
Drug Detection	60	38	44	67	25
Fraud	30	31	28	37	18
Major Motor vehicle crash	106	103	116	114	139
Malicious damage	87	93	92	98	83
Robbery	2	4	5	4	3
Stealing	162	151	111	128	130
Stolen vehicle	26	15	31	23	17
MURWILLUMBAH	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Assault	90	71	86	78	97
Break and Enter	59	94	64	49	49
Drug Detection	93	76	55	55	33
Fraud	38	26	30	12	27
Major Motor vehicle crash	155	107	79	65	63
Malicious damage	70	82	97	83	89
Robbery	9	5	0	2	2
Stealing	150	117	128	92	85
Stolen vehicle	15	18	14	13	12
POTTSVILLE	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Assault	25	40	25	31	26
Break and Enter	38	11	18	41	13
Drug Detection	12	18	10	5	4
Fraud	5	6	8	5	3
Major Motor vehicle crash	25	16	23	15	24
Malicious damage	21	23	21	16	24
Robbery	2	2	0	1	0
Stealing	43	33	29	33	28
Stolen vehicle	4	3	2	7	3

Source: These crime statistics were supplied by the Crime Prevention Unit, Tweed/Byron Local Area Command, New South Wales Police Force

TYALGUM	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Assault	10	3	8	9	6
Break and Enter	2	0	3	1	2
Drug Detection	2	1	1	5	3
Fraud	2	0	0	0	1
Major Motor vehicle crash	21	15	11	22	7
Malicious damage	5	2	1	4	4
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Stealing	4	2	1	3	5
Stolen vehicle	0	2	0	1	0
UKI	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Assault	6	3	3	6	11
Break and Enter	4	0	4	3	7
Drug Detection	3	6	9	4	25
Fraud	0	1	1	0	2
Major Motor vehicle crash	17	20	23	24	23
Malicious damage	4	3	3	3	6
Robbery	0	0	1	0	1
Stealing	10	9	4	8	6
Stolen vehicle	0	2	0	2	0

Source: These crime statistics were supplied by the Crime Prevention Unit, Tweed/Byron Local Area Command, New South Wales Police Force